

St. John Neumann  
The Path Forward  
Beginning June 2018  
*Document Updated April 23, 2019*

**Mission:** St. John Neumann Church exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ who are engaged members of the Church Jesus founded.

**Strategy:** To identify a path to discipleship: A disciple is formed when he or she Encounters Christ, Grows in Christ, and is Sent by Christ.

**Tactics and Goals:**

1. Communicate the mission and strategy of the parish again, and again, and again.
  - A. Mark and implement each year in the parish with a parish theme to communicate a sense of community and guide encounter, formation, and mission.
    - 2018-2019: Resting in the Healing Heart of Jesus
      - Healing Mass – September 16, 2018
      - Lenten Mission presented by Tom Quinlan: Jesus is Broken to Make Us Whole – March 31 - April 2, 2019
      - Parish Retreat presented by Tom Quinlan: Jesus is Broken to Make Us Whole ... and Joyful! – April 27-April 28
      - Included features in Bulletin – on the cover and as prayer reflections throughout the year
  - B. Include in homilies and Bulletin articles the central themes of discipleship: the necessity for personal conversion and mission, focus on the kerygma, our calling to form missionary disciples of ourselves and those in our sphere of influence – throughout 2018 to present
  - C. Use graphics to communicate the mission and path to discipleship – ongoing, including Hermes-Media Center kitchen wall and hallway outside Nursery
  - D. Overhaul web site – targeted to go live summer 2019
2. Plan and evaluate our processes, programs, and facilities in reference to our mission: Does this serve our mission to form missionary disciples? Are we in mission or maintenance mode?
  - A. Form a staff leadership team to assist the pastor in implementing this vision across ministries and meet weekly – January 2019
  - B. Conduct staff formation after weekly staff meetings – in 2018-2019 used “Tools for Rebuilding” by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran
  - C. Hold a staff retreat focusing on being sent on mission by God – May 2019
3. Attend to **preevangelization** by being intentionally hospitable, especially at those life moments when people fall back on their faith

- A. Implement preevangelization and evangelization moments for Religious Education parents, including Family Faith Gatherings and Community Gatherings – FFG: September 2018. CG: September 2019.
  - B. Revise Baptism formation program to make it more evangelizing – September 2018
  - C. Revise Baptism registration process to simplify it and make it more evangelizing – February 2019, to be posted on the web site in May 2019
  - D. Implement evangelization efforts for Christmas and Easter Masses
    - Christmas 2018 parking lot evangelization and Bulletin focused on non-parishioners
    - Easter 2019 mailer to all communities in area and Bulletin focused on non-parishioners
  - E. Plan and implement three major social events for our community per year such as:
    - Participate in Scarecrow Fest – Fall 2019
    - Hold St. John Neumann Feast, open to the community – January 2020
    - Participate in the Saint Charles St. Patrick Day Parade – Spring 2020
  - F. Evaluate the current RCIA program so insure that it evangelizes as well as catechizes
4. Implement ways to help people to **Encounter Christ** – make a personal relationship with Jesus and conversion central to parish life
- A. Hold one to two Alpha sessions per year
    - January 2018; January 2019; September 2019; January 2020.
  - B. Hold at least two Schools of Prayer (“how to pray and praying”) per year.
    - School of Prayer initial series by L’Alto – October 18, 2017
    - Fr. Peck’s Teaching Mass – Feb. 28, 2018
    - Therese Stahl’s School of Prayer class on relics – October 20, 2018
    - Fr. Peck’s Oremus prayer class – January through March 2019
    - Fr. Dennis’ School of Prayer on the Divine Mercy Chaplet – April 13, 2019
    - How-To prayer resources on our web site – ongoing
5. Implement ways to help people **Grow in Christ** – take the time to mature disciples following a conversion moment
- A. Offer spiritual, intellectual, and human formation opportunities throughout the year – ongoing
  - B. Offer and support the multiplying of small faith groups or discipleship groups.
    - First series of discipleship groups – April through December 2019
    - Evaluation of the first series – Spring 2019
    - Second series of discipleship groups – May 2019
    - Third series of discipleship groups – September 2019
6. Implement ways to help people **Be Sent by Christ** – resist a culture of volunteerism to raise up apostles of Jesus Christ
- A. Hold a Missionary Summit for all volunteer missionaries to form them in a sense of mission and purpose and energize them for their call – September 15, 2018

- B. Name our volunteers what they are: missionaries. Use the language “volunteer missionary” in all communications – Fall 2018
  - C. Offer ReLit at least once a year – Spring and Fall 2018
  - D. Offer modified version of ReLit in the 2019-2020 year
  - E. Offer a charism discernment workshop at least once per year – Spring 2018 and one planned for Spring 2019
7. Undergird the entire effort with prayer
- A. Form an intercessory prayer group who meets regularly – January 2018
  - B. Make prayer an intentional and larger part of staff meetings – January 2019
  - C. Develop and implement a parish-wide prayer for all missionary efforts – Spring 2018 and Fall 2019

***Reminder:*** *There is no silver bullet. The culture of our parish will change when we hit a critical tipping point of missionary disciples in the parish. The process to achieve this point is a long, slow road of forming individuals one-by-one and avoiding “quick fix” mentalities. “If we would just do this ...” never works. Disciples are formed singularly, not in large groups.*